

PUBLICK AFFAIRS

IN

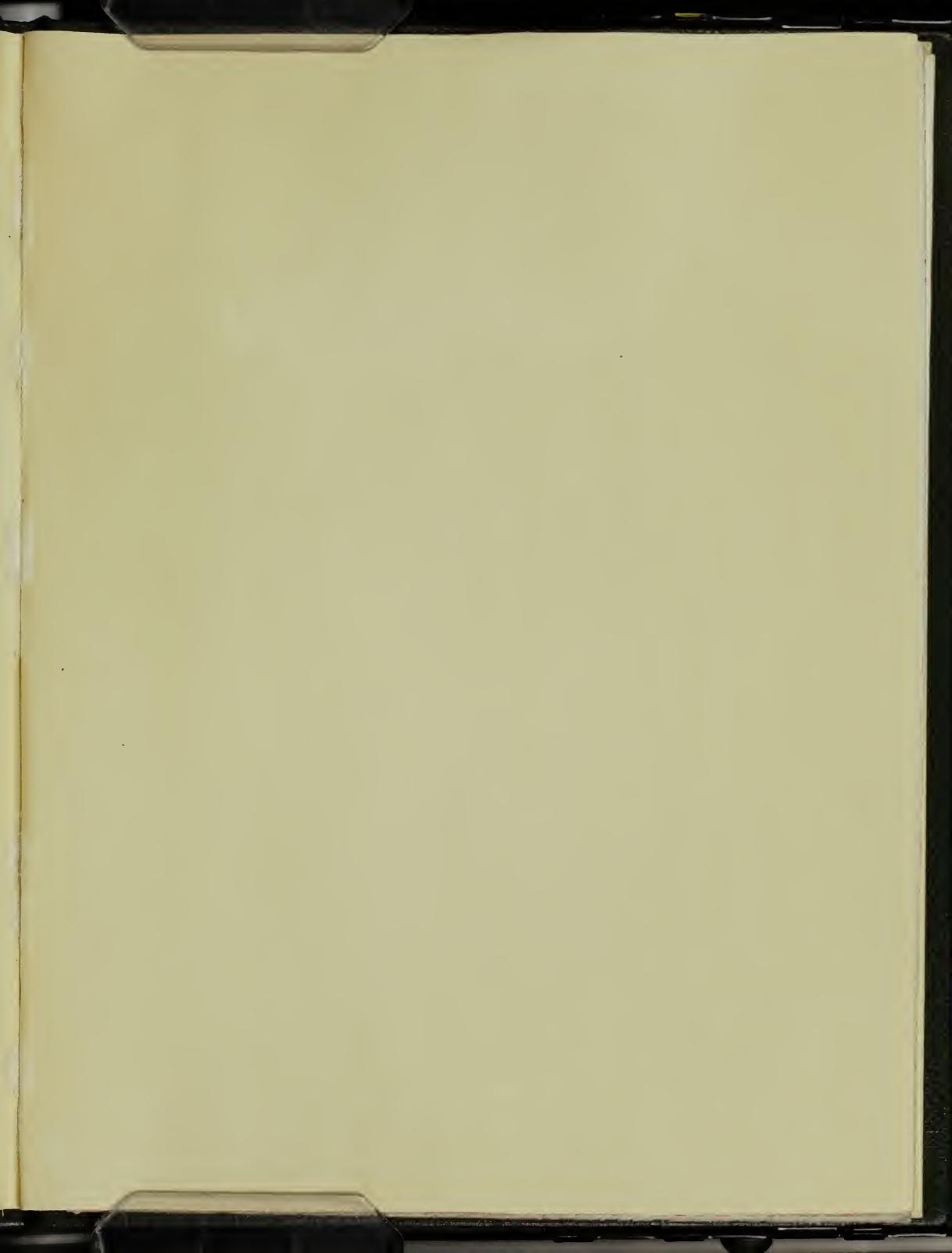
IRELAND

SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF THE

LATE PLOT

1679







AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
Publick Affairs  
IN  
IRELAND,  
Since the discovery of the  
Late PLOT.



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London,  
Printed in the Year, 1679.

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Public Affairs  
IN  
IRELAND  
Since the history of the  
PLOT



London  
Printed in 1850

# READER,

I Have been long a loser by Adventures in Ireland, and must own I have been led to think that every thing there went amiss, because my own Concerns did suffer. So that even before, but especially since the discovery of this Hellish Plot, I have very liberally helped on, what-ever I heard to the disadvantage of the Government there, whether in the management of the Duke of Ormond, or the Administration of the Council. But having found by some turn of the Tide, That the great outcry of neglect and evil doing, hath called some Parties concerned, to give an Account of their Proceedings; I have

been much changed in my Opinion, not only by particular Letters, but by sight of a Paper lately given in by the Earl of Ossory to the House of Lords. So that I know not well how to expiate for all the uncharitable and injurious Reflections, which I confess I have contributed to, but by helping to undeceive others at my own Charge, and by putting the said Paper, with what I have since learn'd, into Print.

And truly, besides this way of reparation, which in Justice I owe to those concerned, I think it some service to the Publick Safety, that the true extent of our Dangers and Security be known, and that we do not rend our Friends in pieces, instead of our Enemies. For such a method cannot fail to make our defence hopeless.

For

For my own part since my Opinion  
hath turn'd to better thoughts of things  
in Ireland, it must honestly be owned  
by us all, That the Duke of Ormond  
hath been still on the Loyal side, as also  
firm in all turns to the Protestant Cause.  
And when I consider with my self, how  
great a Fortune he hath in several  
parts of that Kingdom, which draws  
naturally on him a dependence of great  
Numbers; and that he hath also  
many Relations, among those of the  
Popish Party; and how, on the other  
side, the present quiet of that Kingdom  
can hardly arise from the terror of a  
small Army, or the poor provision of  
Stores, where the Papists are so very  
disproportionable in Numbers to the  
Protestants: I do plainly think that  
the said Duke is acting an extraordi-  
nary part; that by his Influence and  
In-

Interest he comes to know and divert  
the Evils that might happen: and pru-  
dently turns his Personal Advantages  
to the service and safety of the Public.

This is plain. Things are there in  
full Peace and Plenty, and for ought  
I hear, they fear nothing there, but  
what we fear here also. And my day-  
ly Prayers are, for a Blessing on the  
publick Counsels, that it may be better  
with us both.

AN



AN EXTRACT of some Letters, Orders, and Proclamations, which have come from Ireland, some to the Council-Board, and some to particular hands, which in part shew what hath been done since the Discovery of the Plot, and how things stand there in general: referring for full and exact Information unto such account, as by the Lord Lieutenant and Council of that Kingdom will doubtless be given, when required thereunto.

**T**HAT when News of the Discovery of the Plot, and his Majesties Order of the first of October last, came to the Lord Lieutenant, which was about the 7th following: his Lordship was then at Kilkenny, newly returned from a Progress made by him into Munster, to view the Forts and Places fit for Fortification; and in particular from seeing the new Fort begun by his Order the March preceding, for the defence of the Harbour of Kinsale,

sale, which work hath since gone on, and upon which is already expended above the value of 5000 l. it being a work of great Importance to the Safety of that Kingdom, and the security of all Ships resorting to that Harbour..

2. That according to the said Order the Lord Lieutenant did presently give a Warrant for the Seisure of *Peter Talbot* and of his Papers, and he was accordingly seised and made close Prisoner in the Castle of *Dublin*: where he now so remains, and the Examinations taken were transmitted to his Majesty in Council, and from thence to the House of Lords the last Parliament, together with a Paper writ in his own hand, being an account of Treason, laid to his Charge by one *Sergant*, which Paper 'tis probable he desired should be found; for no other Paper of moment could be found either in his Chamber or in his trunks, he having had time enough to put all out of reach, by the tidings it is likely he and many other Papists did receive of the discovery of the Plot, by Mr. *Oats* at the Council-Board, on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, and the Intelligence sent away that Night. The Lord Lieutenant did also according to his Orders, secure Mr. *Butler*, a Son of the Lord Mount-  
garrets,

garrets : but that Lord himself being of extream age and infirmities, was and lies still Bed-rid. And Colonel Richard Talbot was also committed to safe and close Custody, as soon as ever tho Orders and Accusations against him were transmitted into *Ireland*, and so he still remains.

3. The Lord Lieutenant also hastned to *Dublin*, and arriving there the 11th of *October*, he presently called upon the Council, and they met from day to day, to consider of the public Safety : and did issue from time to time several Orders and Proclamations as followeth.

A Proclamation, strictly requiring all Officers and Souldiers to repair to their respective Garri-<sup>14. 1678.</sup>  
sons and Quarters, and not to depart from them without Licence.

Another Proclamation, requiring all Titular Arch-Bishops, Bishops, Vicars General, Abbots, and other Dignitaries of the Church of *Rome*, and all others exercising Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction by Authority from the Pope ; as also all Jesuits, and other regular Priests, to depart the Kingdom by the 20 of *November* next. And that all Popish Societies, Convents, Seminaries,

and Popish Schools should dissolve and separate themselves, under the penalties therein mentioned. All Persons were forbid to harbour them, and all Magistrates commanded to enquire, punish or certify the disobedience therein. And that the Persons so commanded to leave the Kingdom, might not pretend want of convenience for Transportation;

*Novemb.* Another Proclamation issued, requiring all  
6. 1678. Owners and Masters of Ships, bound to parts beyond the Sea, to set up Notice in Writing in the most public Places, of the time of their departure. And they were required to take on Board all such Ecclesiasticks, as should desire to go with them. And the Officers of the Customs were commanded to stop all Ships, that did not give such notice of their departure.

*Novemb.* Another Proclamation issued, Commanding  
2. 1678. that no Papist in the Kingdom should thenceforth presume to ride with, carry, buy, keep or use any Arms whatsoever, without License. That within twenty days after the date thereof, or 7 days after the Receipt of any Arms, they were required to deliver them up to certain of the  
most

most noted Protestants, for that purpose named in the several Counties, who were to take such Arms and give Receipts for what they took, and send the same to his Majesties Stores. That the Justices of the Peace and Officers of the Army should, after the time expired, search for and seize the Arms of unlicensed Persons; or if they found more Arms than were expressed, with those that had License, they were to bind the Delinquents over to the next Assizes or Sessions of the County. And all Persons of the Popish Religion, and all Merchants and others, retailers of Powder, were required to send in an account of their Stores, if the same exceeded one pound, and of any Powder which they might afterwards receive.

Another Proclamation issued, forbidding <sup>Novemb.</sup> ~~20. 1628.~~ Papists to come into the Castle of Dublin, or into any Fort or Citadel of that Kingdom: Appointing also that the Fairs, and weekly Markets of certain places, viz. Drogheda, Wexford, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Trough and Galloway, be thenceforth kept without the Walls of the said Garrisons. And that Papists be not suffered to continue or reside in the said Towns, or in

any Corporations, where Garrisons were kept, unless they had for the greatest part of twelve months past, inhabited in such Towns. And that no persons of the Popish Religion any ways armed, be suffer'd to come into the said Fairs or Markets. And also strictly requiring all Papists to forbear any unseasonable, or night-Meetings, or in great or unusual Numbers in any part of the Kingdom. And commanding all Officers Civil and Military, to be careful to prevent and dissolve all such Meetings, to commit the principal Offenders to Prison, till they find good security to answer the same the next Sessions; and to return an account of their Proceedings therein, with the Names of such as occasioned or countenanced the same unto the Council-Board.

Novemb.

20. 1678.

Another Proclamation issued the same day, promising a Reward of 10 l. for every Commission'd Officer, 5 l. for every Trooper, and 40 s. for every Foot-Souldier, to such as should discover any of them, to have been perverted to the Romish Religion, or heard Mass, who had formerly taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy. And the like to the Discoverer of any that should afterwards be perverted.      Besides

Besides that, It was a Rule begun in the present Lord Lieutenant's first Government after the King's Restauration, and ever since continued, That the Muster-master should check the Pay of every Officer and Souldier of the Army, who does not produce a Certificate from the Bishop or Minister of the Place, of his having taken the Sacrament according to the Church of *England*, twice every Year.

That being Informed, That several of the Titular Bishops, and Regular Clergy, had not obeyed the Proclamation of the 16<sup>th</sup> of October last, for their Departure; there issued a circular Letter from the Lord Lieutenant and Council: whereby all Justices of the Peace are commanded to make diligent search after them; to commit them to Prisons: and to return the Names of their Receivers and Harbourers, that they might be proceeded against according to Law.

Another Proclamation issued, highly resent- ing the slackness of the Justices, &c. in executing the late Proclamation for searching after and seizing of Arms, requiring therefore a fur- December 12. 1678.ther.

ther search, and proposing a method for preventing of forged Licenses. And to look upon all who should be remiss in their Duties, as Contemners of the King's Authority, and proceeded against as the Abettors of those who disturb the Peace.

*December 13. 1678.* Another Proclamation issued, taking notice of a Letter scattered in the Streets of *Dublin*, intimating a Conspiracy against the Life of the Lord Lieutenant, promising Protection and 200*l.* Reward unto the Discoverer. And it afterwards appear'd that one *Jephson* a young man, perverted from his Religion by some *Irish* Priests was a Party engaged in that Design; and two *Irish* Priests, his Abettors therein, were taken and put into Custody: and their Examinations transmitted to the Council here, and from thence sent to the House of Lords.

There were two great Questions among others under the serious Debate of the Lord Lieutenant and Council, from whence much ill grounded Reflection hath arisen; The one about securing the principal Heads of the most considerable Clans, or Families of the *Irish*, who have lost their Estates: some supposing that it might

might conduce to the safety of the *English*, if such Heads were in restraint, and that their Followers would not then presume or adventure to run into Rebellion. But upon serious Considerations it was thought, That such a proceeding might rather quicken a Rebellion than prevent it. For the Numerous Followers who depended wholly upon their Masters Interest and Authority, for the support of themselves and Families, being angred or a frighted at the ill usage of their Principals, and being loosned from all Dependencies, might rather put themselves upon some unlawful way of Living, by turning *Tories*, than intrust themselves to the pleasure of the Government, and in the quality of *Tories* they would be equally mischeivous, and especially to the *English* dispersed in their remote Dwellings, as a small Rebellion. Besides this, further reason did dissuade the taking up these chief men as Hostages. For if their Followers were but few, they could not do the *English* much hurt, as they are, but if strong and numerous it would be easily in their power to surprize so many *English* Gentlemen living in their remote and scattered Dwellings in the Country, as would soon redeem such Hostages, and thereby render all

all the Charge and Care of such an Undertaking fruitless, and only serve to breed ill blood. So that the Lord Lieutenant hath in some measure steered a different Course, by shewing civility, and giving good words, to such of the Heads of the *Irish* as come neer him ; whereby he finds out early what is doing among their Dependents, and hath conceived this method of obviating Dangers more safe, than either by Rigors to compel them or their Followers to live always in Conjunction, and talk of their misfortunes, or by Imprisonment of so many of the Nobility of a Kingdom without Crimes objected, or Commands from hence, incur the Censure of Arbitrary Proceedings, which are neither safe or fit for him to bear.

Another Point which hath been under Consideration before the Lord Lieutenant and Council, was a Proposal for dreyning the Corporations (especially those that are Garrison'd) from the numbers of *Irish* Papists that live among them, in order to prevent any Surprise or Private Conspiracy. But when it was reflected on, That notwithstanding the several Orders and Proclamations that have from time to time been

been issued from the Government for the Expulsion of *Irish* Inhabitants and Servants from the Towns and Garrisons ; and that very few in respect of the number complained of were Licensed to return : It was manifest that it was the *English* themselves, who did in most places receive them in again for their own advantage, not knowing well how to live without them. They wanted Servants and Tenants and Tradesmen (for of such are these numbers in the Towns constituted) and the *Irish* Papists supplied them with such : and the *English* did not conceive this sort of People to be so dangerous as beneficial unto them : So that the Lord Lieutenant and Council do only forbear their expulsion in whole or in part, for convenience and gratification to the *English*. However 'tis certain there can never be a true Remedy herein, as to the security and improvement of that Kingdom, unless by a large accession of *English* and Protestants there. And untill that shall happen, all other Trials upon those sort of *Irish* will be in a manner but to lay some Towns, and very much of the Lands of the Protestants quite waste and untenanted. And yet it so falls out, That many on this side not considering the disproportion of the

*Irish* to the *English*, nor the difference of the Laws there as to Capital and pecuniary Musters from what they are in *England*, do think many things are defective, because they are not there executed as they are, and may be executed in this Kingdom.

Upon these and other reasons of weight, the two Propositions forementioned were thought impracticable. But the principal and present security of that Kingdom consisting in the balancing the Numbers of *Irish* with a superiority of strength and leaving them naked, and the *English* in Arms, The Lord Lieutenant and Council did think fit to revive the Commission of Array, so that the Militia of that Kingdom hath been raised in all parts, and is now found in a better Condition than ever it was known to be. And to supply the defect of Arms for such Militia, there were not only appointed some Merchants as publick Undertakers to bring in Arms from abroad: but withal not wholly to depend upon their performance, the Lord Lieutenant hath procured a supply out of his Majesties Stores here of Powder and Arms to the value of about 13000*l.* which are now actually landed in *Ireland*, and for payment of which he himself stands

stands engaged to the Office of Ordnance here, until a Parliament do meet in *Ireland* to make provision for things of this Importance. But surely to have proceeded with any Degree of Precipitation while the *English* were so unfurnished, had not been very prudential.

As to his Majesties Forces in that Kingdom, they are well disciplin'd and well paid, and it hath pleased his Majesty lately to send over a reinforcement of about 1200 Men. And the Army is so distributed, as that the Cities (which are the Garrisons of that Kingdom) are secured as well as it is possible for the proportion of such a Militia, and such an Army to make them.

There is all the discountenance given to Mass-Houses in all places, which the Laws of that Kingdom will bear. Nor is there Licence for any Arms given to any but such as need them, and for no more than is necessary for their security against Tories in their remote and scattered Habitations, and for whose Loyalty and peaceable Demeanour, the Lord Lieutenant is first sufficiently certified by some Protestants of Note.

The Forts are in as good a Condition as the Stores and the Revenue of that Kingdom will allow, and perhaps somewhat better. But it is manifest that much more is needful in every kind in case of Forreign Attempts. And therefore seeing the Charge of the Government, and the Income of the Revenue are so exactly ballanced by a setled Establishment, that it is not in the Power of the Lord Lieutenant to alter the same, and that no Money can be raised from the Subject but by Act of Parliament ; Therefore the Lord Lieutenant hath been long endeavouring to have a Parliament called, and to that end several Bills were transmitted the last Summer from the Lord Lieutenant and Council, which now remain at the Council-Board here, together with a large Representation of the State of Accounts depending with the Lord *Ranelagh* and his Partners, who were late Undertakers for the Revenue of that Kingdom. And until there shall be leisure (which since the discovery of this horrid Plot there scarce hath been) to send back these things, with the mature Considerations they deserve, there is no visible means left for the raising and augmenting the Publick Revenue to such a proportion as may put that Kingdom in a suff-

sufficient posture of defence, as to Army, Fortifications and Stores, in case of any powerful Invasion.

But for the present all things are there in full Peace and Quietness.

And for further account of the present State of that Kingdom, and of what hath there been done, or further reason of the particulars here mentioned, or of any other thing which may have been left undone; There is no doubt but full satisfaction will be given by the Lord Lieutenant and Council, when such particular Enquiries and Demands are made as shall be thought convenient.

*All which is humbly submitted.*

*A Com.*

*A Continuation of the former Account, from such faithful Relations, as have since come to several Hands from Ireland.*

Orders having been issued forth to the Commissioners of Array for viewing the Militia, and they certifying by several Returns, that many Arms were wanting both in the Troops and Foot-Companies; the Lord Lieutenant made application to his Majesty, to have Arms & Ammunition sent from *England*. And some Merchants in this Kingdom, viz. *John Rogerson*, and *John Castleton* of *Dublin*, and *George Mac Cartney* of *Belfast*, did propose to bring in several quantities of Arms and Ammunition, and to place the same in his Majesties Magazins, or to sell or dispose of them in such manner as the Lord Lieutenant and Council should appoint, at reasonable rates. And accordingly Licences were granted and signed for them, and the said *Mac Cartney* took out his Licence.

But the Officers of the Ordnance in *Ireland*,  
pro.

proposing to bring Arms and Ammunition out of his Majesties Magazine in the Tower of London, and to furnish the Kingdom with such proportions, as the Lord Lieutenant should think fit, at as reasonable Rates, as any others could do, for as good and servicable Arms: The other Licences were stayed, having not been call'd for by the said Merchants, before these Proposals of the Officers of the Ordnance.

Letters from the Council-board issued to the Commissioners of Array in the several Countries, giving them notice of the expectation of the sudden arrival of Arms and Ammunition out of England: and that they should certify to the Board the quantity and quality of the Arms they would have occasion to buy for the use of the Militia, and to have the money ready to be paid upon delivery of the Arms.

Letters were sent to several persons at Galway and Buffin, to be diligent in searching and seizing on any Arms that might be brought in there, upon intimation, that at Brest, Arms were put on board two Fly-boats belonging to Galway, the Masters whereof were Papists.

And

And Directions were given to the Farmers of the Revenue to write to the Officers of the several Ports in the Kingdom, to be very diligent in searching for and securing all Arms and Ammunition which should be brought into the Kingdom.

March 26. 1679. A Proclamation issued out against Tories and Robbers. And, for the reasons therein expressed, for seizing their nearest Relations, that is to say, their Wives, Fathers, Mothers, Brothers and Sisters of such of them as shall be out upon their keeping, that is not ameaneable to Law, and committing them to close Prison, until such Tories shall be kill'd or taken.

And also for seizing and committing to Prison the respective Popish pretended Parish-Priests, & transporting them thence beyond the Seas: unless within fourteen dayes after any Robbery, Burglary or Murder committed, the Persons who are guilty shall be Kill'd or Taken, or Discovery made within that time, so that such Offenders may be apprehended, and brought to Justice.

A Pro-

A Proclamation issued forth for Reward to such Persons, as shall apprehend any of the popish regular Clergy, who have not transported themselves, according to a former Proclamation. March. 16. 1679

*Viz.*

For every Titular Arch-Bishop, or Bishop, and every Jesuit ten pounds; and for every other person commanded by the said Proclamation to depart, five pounds.

An Order of the Lord Lieutenant and Council, was sent to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of Mar. 31. 1679. Dublin, for Dissolving and Dispersing the Meetings in several Mass-houses in the City and Suburbs of Dublin, And not to permit any Popish Services to be celebrated in the said Houses, or other Publick places within the said City or Suburbs. And to apprehend and commit to Prison such as shall offend, until they find security to answer at the Quarter Sessions.

Letters sent from the Council-Board in order to the removing of all Papists Inhabitants out of Galway, Lymrick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Clonmel,

D and

and *Drogheda*, except some few Trading Merchants, Artificers, and others, necessary for the said Towns and Garrisons; those being the principal in the Kingdom, where the *Papists* are most numerous.

Letters sent from the Council-Board, to the Chief Magistrates of the several Corporations of *Cork*, *Lymerick*, *Waterford*, *Youghal*, *Clonmel*, *Galway*, *Kilkenny*, *Drogheda*, *Kinsale*, *Wexford*, *Athlone* and *Ross*, for suppressing the Assemblies of the Papists, and prohibiting the celebration of their Popish Services within and without the Walls of the said Corporations.

April. 7. 1679. An Order issued out from the Lord Lieutenant, commanding Colonel *Fitz-Patrick* immediately to depart from the City of *Dublin*; and not to come within twenty miles thereof, or of any other place where his Lordship should at any time reside, as he should answer the contrary at his utmost peril.

F I N I S.



